

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Final Office Action dated April 4, 2005. In that Office Action claims 1-15, 17-28, and 30-33 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-15, 17-28, and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (USPN 6,668,354). Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 8, 17, 21, and 30 have been amended; no claims have been canceled; and no new claims have been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-15, 17-28, and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (USPN 6,668,354). Applicants respectfully traverse said rejections and believe the above amendments and following remarks will elucidate Applicants' reasons why the present claims are allowable over the prior art.

First, Applicants would like to provide a brief summary of some of the aspects of the present invention, which are as defined in the claims. In embodiments of the present invention, a computer system provides themes for graphical components. A "theme" is the overall visual appearance or "look and feel" of the graphical components rendered and displayed on the graphical display. See application pg. 3, lines 3-5. Graphical components include, in embodiments of the present invention, the window frame, the minimize box, the close box, "controls," such as the "OK" button, scroll bars, or dialog boxes, or other such components. See application pg. 1, lines 17-26. In embodiments, the controls and other rendered objects help define the visual appearance of the applications being executed and displayed within the graphical operating system environment. See application pg. 6, line 27 – pg. 7, line 10. Exemplary applications may include a web browser application, a text editor, or a spreadsheet application. In embodiments of the present invention, the "theme" provides a common, user-specified appearance for all of the applications being executed and displayed in the graphical operating system environment. Thus, for example, the controls and objects used to define the web browser application, the text editor application, and the spreadsheet application, mentioned above, can share a common appearance.

In contrast, Chen describes a system for automatically generating a style sheet that includes a parser for generating a document type graph in accordance with an input style or structure, a graphical user interface tool for interactively mapping the document type graph to form a display template in accordance with user requirements, and a script generator for generating the style sheet in accordance with the graphical user interface and the design template.

Style sheets, as understood in the industry, are used to define the layout characteristics of hypertext documents. Specifically, style sheets are text files that provide a set of layout specifications for HTML documents. See Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 5th Edition, page 501. The layout specifications in the style sheet are kept separate from the content because the layout specifications are defined globally for all web pages in the web site. In addition, style sheets help separate the presentation and structure of an HTML document to improve accessibility. Chen also uses the term “data type definition.” Applicants were unable to determine the meaning of a “data type definition,” but believe that Chen was referring to the standard industry term, document type definition (DTD). A DTD is a separate document that contains the formal definitions for the data elements in a type of web document, such as a SGML, XML, or HTML document. The parser, mentioned above, works with the markup codes that the DTD document contains. See Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 5th Edition, page 179. Thus, Chen provides a system for automatically generating a style sheet that can change the layout or appearance of an HTML document inside a web browser. Importantly, neither the style sheet nor the DTD modify the appearance of the web browser application or any other application being executed in the graphical operating system environment. Rather, the style sheet and DTD merely change or define the appearance of the web page being displayed within the web browser application.

Claim 1

Applicants respectfully traverse the section § 102(e) rejections. The amended claims necessarily preclude a finding of a prima facie case of anticipation because the requirements of a prima facie case are not met. Indeed, a prima facie case of anticipation can only be met when the prior art reference teaches or suggests all the claim limitations. See MPEP § 2131. Chen does not describe, teach or suggest: a selecting module receiving a user request for a selected theme

having an associated non-binary theme file with theme properties capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system environment.

The present invention provides, as recited in amended claim 1, a computer system configured for providing themes for graphical components. The computer system has memory and comprises a selecting module receiving a user request for a selected theme having an associated non-binary theme file with theme properties capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system environment; a converting module converting the associated non-binary theme file into a binary theme file to facilitate retrieval of theme properties; and a loading module loading the binary theme file into the memory so that themes can be applied to the graphical components. A theme, as recited in claim 1 and described in present application, is a collection or set of appearance characteristics relating to a particular subject, such as an application, or a desired visual environment. The present invention allows the user of the computer to specify which of a number of predefined themes is to be applied to the controls and other components of applications within the visual display. One or more applications operating within the graphical operating system environment may access the predefined themes.

Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest a selecting module receiving a user request for a selected theme having an associated non-binary theme file with theme properties capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system environment. The graphical user interface tool for interactively mapping the document type graph to form a display template and the script generator for generating the style sheet described in Chen are different from the theme system of the present invention. The description in Chen only applies to a display for a markup document of web content. A web browser or the equivalent application must be used to display the markup document. The style sheet and DTD do not change the appearance of the controls, such as the menubar, toolbar, or window frame, of the web browser application, but modify the appearance of the web page displayed within the web browser application. Chen does not create or operate on themes for the graphical user interface, capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system, of a computer system.

The “theme” of the present invention can change the appearance of the controls of the web browser application. In addition, the theme can also be applied to other applications operating within the graphical operating system environment. Further, the system described in Chen would not be capable of creating themes, capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system, because the script language and DTD graphs are used only with a markup document. Simply, Chen is not applicable to the creation of themes for the user interfaces of applications within the graphical operating system but only applies to the creation of a HTML document format and appearance of web pages within a web browser.

For the above reasons, Applicants’ amended claim 1 is allowable over Chen.

Claim 8 and Claim 21

The present invention, as recited in claim 8 and claim 21, provides a method and computer program product for creating a visual style for a set of graphical components for use on a computer system having a graphical operating environment and processes with shared memory. The method comprises selecting graphical components from a schema file of graphical components, that are desired to have a defined visual style, each component being defined by a unique class name; assigning properties to the selected components according to the defined visual style so that each selected component has assigned properties; grouping the pairs of selected graphical components and corresponding assigned properties for the defined visual style together in a class data file; converting the class data file into a binary theme file having a class data section having class names and assigned properties in a binary format; and loading the binary theme file into the shared memory so that a visual style can be used to render graphical components of a plurality of applications in the graphical operating environment.

Chen does not anticipate amended claim 8 and amended claim 21. Applicants respectfully aver that at least for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1, Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest: loading the binary theme file into the shared memory so that a visual style can be used to render graphical components of a plurality of applications in the graphical operating environment. Chen applies only to the modification of web content displayed within a web browser application and not to themes that change the appearance of the controls for the applications, such as the appearance of the web browser application controls. In addition, Chen creates a single style sheet and does not mention creating a class data section in the class data file

that can change the appearance of graphical components for a plurality of applications. Thus, for example, the graphical components of a web browser and another application, such as a document editor or a spreadsheet program, may change appearance but maintain a similar or like visual style between the application. For these reasons, Applicants' amended claim 8 and amended claim 21 are allowable over Chen.

Claim 17 and Claim 30

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 17 and claim 30, provides a method and a computer program product for retrieving graphical component theme property data on a computer system having a graphical operating system and processes. The method comprises receiving a rendering request from a graphical component, the request having a theme handle and a component state; accessing a binary theme file to retrieve theme property data, capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system, for the requesting process; and retrieving graphical component theme property data from the binary theme file.

Again, Chen does not anticipate amended claim 17 and amended claim 30. Applicants respectfully aver that at least for the reasons stated above with regard to claims 1, 8, and 21, Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest: accessing a binary theme file to retrieve theme property data, capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system, for the requesting process. Chen creates a style sheet for a single hypertext document. Chen does not receive a render request from a graphical component of an application in the graphical operating system, such as a control of the web browser application as opposed to a control in a web page displayed within the web browser application. In addition, the style sheet or DTD is incapable of changing the appearance of any control outside the web page. Thus, Chen does not provide theme property data, capable of being applied to one or more applications in the graphical operating system. For these reasons, Applicants' amended claim 17 and amended claim 30 are allowable over Chen.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that amended claims 1, 8, 17, 21, and 30 are allowable over the prior art. Further, as all other claims depended from these allowable independent claims, all claims now present are allowable over the prior art.

Applicants also respectfully aver that the amendments and the reasons for allowing the claims, presented above, are similar to past amendments and reasoning, and that the present amendments and response do not require a new prior art search by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the present claims.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Date: June 2, 2005



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tadd F. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

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